



Artist prefers the 'porn' label

The clean-cut 25-year-old Ren hardly fits the popular image of a pornographer, but "porn" is precisely how he describes his work.

In the past few years, this advertising drop-out has become China's most sought-after creator of explicit photos, films and poems.

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Page 6 Through the eyes of Che

The world knows Che Guevara the revolutionary; his son wants it to meet Che the photographer.

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Preserving Beijing

The city hopes its historic axis can be named a UNESCO World Heritage site by 2013.



City talks of visa free tours, duty free shops

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing may soon offer a new class of 72-hour visa-free tours to foreigners passing through the capital.

Ding Xiangyang, the vice mayor, made the announcement at the Beijing Summit of World Tourism Cities Federation held last weekend.

It is not clear when the new policy will take effect and which countries will be included.

"The new policy has only just been approved by the central government," Ding said.

Analysts say the city could choose to implement the policy as early as the first quarter of 2013. The visas would likely be available to tourists passing through Beijing on their way to a third country.

Beijing's 5 million foreign tourists spent \$5.1 billion during last year. City administrators expect to receive 10 million tourists by 2015, and those tourists may generate \$10 billion in revenue for related industries.

"Most foreign tourists spend about \$1,000," Ding said. "The average Chinese tourist spends only around 2,000 yuan."

Many international hubs offer transit visas as a way to attract foreign tourists to spend more on their stop-over.

Beijing also has 110,000 foreigners who are long-term residents of the city, some 50,000 of whom are students, said Liu Jiwei, a spokesperson for the Beijing Entry and Exit Bureau.

The bureau receives visa applications and grants



The Beijing Entry and Exit Bureau has been receiving more than 10,000 applications for visa renewal each month this year.

Photo provided by Beijing Entry and Exit Bureau

approval in the capital. Liu said the applications for entry and stay in Beijing have seen a rapid increase this year.

The bureau received 122,000 requests for visa applications and renewals during the first eight months of the year. This does not include visa applications at Chinese embassies and consulates abroad.

"We are the front line in receiving inquiries and applications," Liu said. Applications will peak at the end of October, he said.

China provides 24-hour transit visas to foreigners from

developed countries, but foreigners are not allowed to leave the airports. Only Shanghai offers a 48-hour transit visa-free tour, though it is also limited to the airport.

To increase its attractiveness as a tourist destination, Beijing plans to open duty free shops downtown area, said Lu Wei, director of tourism promotion of the municipal government.

"We'll offer duty free shopping malls in the city center and adopt world practices in these shops," Lu said. "Foreign tourists will be able to get their tax refund when they

leave the city at the airport."

Beijing has a duty free Friendship Store located downtown. The shop was set up in the early 1950s to serve diplomats and tourists who came from the USSR and Eastern European countries. It mainly sold carpets and herbal medicines.

In the early 1980s, Beijing set up a second duty free shop to target Chinese citizens headed abroad. The products sold were home appliances, which were rare at that time.

The Friendship Store has been buried by the multitude of other downtown shopping

malls, and the second duty free shop has transformed into a luxury goods shopping mall.

This year's summit was the second of its kind in Beijing. Representatives from more than 100 cities attended.

Visitors to the summit pledged to strengthen their cooperation.

Beijing announced plans to construct a World Tour City Expo Park to display the logos, mascots, city flowers and trees of other member cities to help Beijingers learn more about foreign culture. The park is expected to become an attraction for foreign tourists as well.

Tourism summit aims to be world's top

By Li Zhixin

The Beijing Fragrant Hills' Tourism Summit ended last Saturday at the Beijing National Conventional Center.

Fifty member cities of the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) attended what the organizers hope to become the industry's top summit

Lu Yong, head of WTCF team and director of the Beijing Tourism Development Committee, said the federation plans to simplify entry requirements and increase flights to other tourism destinations. It will also unify service standards and publish a ranking of tourism cities.

It also plans to provide food



Actors perform at the opening ceremony.

Photo provided by WTCF

festivals, film screenings, costume shows and exhibitions about tourist destinations to attract visitors.

The WTCF was newly

founded days before the summit and will be permanently headquartered in Beijing. It includes cities such as Los Angeles, Moscow, Berlin,

Ottawa, Rome, Dubai, Buenos Aires, Vienna, Amsterdam, Budapest and Xi'an, as well as 11 non-city members that include JTP Corp, Kempinski Hotels and Air China.

WTCF is the world's fourth-largest world tourism organization after the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the World Travel and Tourism Council and the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, said the number of Chinese tourists heading abroad has skyrocketed and that China's remarkable tourism market makes it an ideal place for such a summit.

"The federation can promote mutual benefits between tourist destinations," said Noel Irwin Hentschel, chairman and CEO of Americantours International (ATI), which plans to expand its services in the China market.

"The federation will not only expand the tourism economy scale globally, but enhance the quality of the tourism industry and improve the effectiveness of the tourism industry in developing countries," she said.

A spokesperson for the federation said it intends to create an evaluation system and share information about tourism activities.

Do deeds by drinking

By Jim Boyce

Pounding pints of beer to help pint-sized individuals might be the ultimate justification for a day of drinking.

The first Beers for Books in Beijing recently provided that opportunity with 12 hours of beer-related fun and raised 10,000 yuan for a reading room at a Hebei Province school.

Beers for Books originates from the US, where it raises money for the charity Room to Read. In China, the organization of choice is The Library Project (TLP), founded in 2006 by American Tom Stader.

TLP has funded more than 600 libraries or reading rooms in China and plans to add hundreds more by the end of this year.

Beers for Books in Beijing was co-organized by Kenn Bremel of Brussels Bar and Restaurant, Nick Papa of Belgian beer distributor Duvel-Moortgaat and Jim Boyce of bar blog Beijing Boyce.

From noon to midnight, Belgian beers Vedett White, Vedett Blonde, La Chouffe and De Koninck were sold at Brussels at a discount, and 15 yuan from every glass went to TLP. Patrons could also order Weibel sparkling wine, available in five flavors, also with 15 yuan from every glass going to TLP. Frank Yglesias of California Grapes, distributor of the wine, donated the cost of the bottles to TLP.

But the day was about more than enjoying a few drinks.

There was music, with the Beijing Beatles playing two sets, including the song "Paperback Writer," and lead singer Ian Burns leading an afternoon kids sing-along. He also announced that the band's performance fee would go to TPL.

Bremel and Brussels co-owner Jessie Wang created more than a half-dozen beer-themed foods for patrons.

There were draws for beers, movies with beer and book themes, and drinking games with a team from The Royal Moma Yacht Club edging the Belgian Bulgies and a group of *that's Beijing* editors called Beerjing.

Both Stader and Christine Wang, head of fundraising for TLP in China, were on hand to deal with the donations.

Look for more Beers for Books events, as several bars have expressed interest in holding a fundraiser, and perhaps even a Bubbly for Books soon.



Some of the organizers at Brussels Bar and Restaurant

Photo by RedStar



Patrons enjoying a day of drinking and doing good



Beijing Beatles playing Photos by Jim Boyce

Snow White auditions begin this weekend



Beijing Playhouse, the leading amateur theater group in town, offers fun performing experience to all.

Photo provided by Beijing Playhouse

By Annie Wei

Beijing Playhouse is holding auditions on September 23 and 24 for its upcoming Christmas musical comedy, *Snow White*.

Chris Verrill, executive director of Beijing Playhouse, said that this show presents the perfect opportunity for an aspiring actor.

Verrill said his first leading role on stage was for a Christmas show, when he played Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* in 1991.

In true British tradition, *Snow White* has served up raucous family entertainment on the West End every Christmas for centuries. A cast of 30, with crazy Christmas costumes and happy music, make this show perfect for families, especially children.

Christmas shows, for a variety of reasons, are the easiest way to get involved in English theater in China. "We always encourage experienced actors to come audition," Verrill said. "Snow White is the best

way for new actors to get involved in their first show, too."

All 30 roles are open to English or non-English speakers of all ages.

Details

For *Snow White*, 20 adult and 10 child actors and singers are needed. It's a dwarf-infested Christmas comedy for adults and children alike. It will have vertically challenged subterranean bearded workers, the handsome prince, the fearsome huntsman, a wacky talking mirror, the evil queen and Santa's helpers, all of whom try to help Snow White discover Christmas magic in the kingdom.

Where: British School of Beijing's Sanlitun campus, 5 Sanlitun Xi Liu Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Sunday and Monday, September 23 and 24, 6:30 pm

Cost: Free

Email: performance@beijingplayhouse.com

City pitches central axis to UNESCO as world heritage

By Bao Chengrong

Beijing's central axis has long been praised for its historic value, but should it really be a candidate for a World Cultural Heritage site?

The Beijing government says yes.

In June, the city's Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage formalized its application for a place on UNESCO's list. It is expecting an answer next year.

The 7.8 – kilometer urban axis extends from Yongdingmen in the south to the Bell and Drum towers in the north. Along it lie such historic sites as the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven.

However, the axis is also home to modern structures such as Tiananmen Square and the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall.

Chao Huashan, a professor of archeology at Peking University, said the recognition of Beijing's central axis as a cultural heritage site may hinge on how UNESCO views the value of constructions along the axis.

The debate is shifting to efforts to restore ruined historic sites, how to incorporate modern political constructions and the demolition of many bungalows.

Though the project to restore Di'anmen was ultimately canceled due to traffic conditions, restoration continues at other historic sites, such as Zuo'anmen.

The Beijing cultural heritage authorities have a lot of work ahead of them if they hope for the city's central axis to win UNESCO's attention. But even if they do, how valuable will the axis be?

Beijing's central axis would be a kind of Lineal or Serial Cultural Heritage, a new category under development. Another national project competing for similar status is the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

The example of the banks of Seine, already recognized by UNESCO, may offer an example for Beijing.

Historic structures along the banks of the Seine were destroyed, rebuilt and expanded. For instance, the Louvre Museum, the oldest in the world, has experienced 800 years of reconstruction to reach its current form.

Paris debated what to do with heritage sites in the old city in the 1940s. Before 1943, the city protection laws enacted in 1913 only protected specific historic sites. It was later amended to protect the whole historic environment located within 500 meters of a historic site.

When Paris began large – scale city construction in the 20 century, the local government spent 30 years developing satellite towns to which it could relocate the residents of protected areas.



Beijing central axis
CFP Photo

VOICES

Reflection of an era

The most important value of Beijing's central axis is it shows how Chinese people planned and built a city using their understandings of territory and strategic position. It is a living record of Beijing's development. Many cities in China also have an axis, but the one in Beijing is the most complete and one that continues today. It is still the most important line in the capital and all of China. In the modern era, it has witnessed almost all momentous political events. The existence of modern constructions, such as Tian'anmen Square, is not an element of destruction but a strengthening of its importance. It reflects the times, and connects China's past with its present.

– Lü Zhou,
author of the application, professor
at the Tsinghua University School of
Architecture

Support its protection

The axis is an essential part of the city. We want to enhance protection of places in the vicinity of the axis by becoming recognized as a World Cultural Heritage site. It would protect historic constructions along the axis and help sweep away the non-harmonious structure. Digging out the history of Beijing's central axis would promote the city's international influence and create a better environment that is rich in culture. We would promote not only protection of the axis, but of the whole city. More than 100 historic sites would

be restored in five years.

– Kong Fanzhi, commissioner
at the Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage

Ideological application

The Forbidden City is already a World Heritage site. Yongdingmen was recently restored, and Qianmen was rebuilt after being burned down by the Eight-power Allied Forces. The Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, the Great Hall of the People and the National Museum are all modern constructions.

The imperial structures outside the Forbidden City were torn down. Even the city wall and the city gate are gone. Given that, winning recognition for the axis will be difficult.

China's applications for World Cultural Heritage are driven by ideology. Looking back to 2004, China won its bid to have the The Emperor's Tomb of Goguryeo recognized. It hadn't planned to until North Korea applied, and then suddenly the country spent every effort to complete its own project in a short time and informed North Korea at the meeting later that year.

– Chao Huashan, archeology professor at Peking University

Remain native

It takes a lot of work to show you are sincere about protecting the city and its cultural heritage.

If this application succeeds, the old city might get another protective layer. The key point is that the government needs to stop its plans that are further eroding the ancient capi-

tal. It's unacceptable to demolish all the hutong for other use. Subway construction near the Drum Tower wiped out many hutong and bungalows. It ruined the ancient lanes and displaced the locals.

Those people were an important part of the area's cultural history. An area without people is soulless. Developers have to respect Beijingers' emotional connection to the old city.

– Xie Chen-sheng, former consultant at Beijing Protection of the Famous Historical and Cultural City

Ignorant of property rights

When the government wants to protect a home, it's called a *siheyuan*. When it doesn't care, it's called a dilapidated bungalow.

This shows a total ignorance of property rights. Longfu Temple has been rebuilt several times. The original form is almost completely lost, so why bother rebuilding it? By comparison, the surrounding neighborhood is quite well preserved. Why should that be smashed down to restore a fake temple?

Restoration of the Bell and Drum Temple Square is sad news for the nearby community. The government should focus on saving the structures that lie along the axis and end its rampant demolition of homes. This project should be about protecting real historic sites instead of blowing money to build fake ones.

– Hua Xinmin, advocate of the protection of cities and folk culture

An artist by chance

By Celine Lin

Tall, tanned and young, Ren doesn't fit the image of a man in his line of work.

The clean-cut 25-year-old is the mind behind numerous pornographic photos, erotic films and sexually explicit poems.

Throughout his interview in a cafe near Communication University of China, Ren continued to smirk and give evasive answers. To hear him describe it, his life and fame are nothing but coincidence.

But Ren has an uncanny talent for his work. He has published five albums and five films during the last two years and has composed countless sexual and satirical verses for his microblog, which already has more than 10,000 followers.

Spontaneity

Ren became bored with studying advertising during his second year of school. He dropped out, not even bothering to hand in the forms to request a leave.

"After that, I played with my friends," he says.

At some point after that, he decided to pick up a camera. He doesn't know why or what inspired him, but it happened.

He says he can't remember if there was any specific event that inspired him to pick up a camera. "There's no certain date or specific event during this transition period

of my life," he says.

Ren despises being called an artist, which he views as a belittling term. "Some prominent Chinese artists seldom paint or sculpt on their own. Their work is all done by their apprentices," he said. "These 'artists' seem to pursue nothing but power and wealth."

Shunning high-tech digital SLR cameras, Ren shoots all his work with a 200-yuan Minolta X-700, a point-and-shoot camera. His photos feature naked men and women.

"I never tell the models to take off all their clothes," Ren says.

"One friend of mine once told me that he could accept taking off everything but his underwear. As we kept chatting and taking pictures, he eventually took off his underwear on his own."

Most of Ren's models are his friends. For unfamiliar models, he asks only that they be as relaxed as possible. He never plans their poses beforehand.

"I just chat with them until the best idea dawns on me," he says.

That "best idea" could be anything.

In *Room*, one of Ren's albums, the model pulls his penis and scrotum around with his hand, later placing his penis on a piece of toast and dousing it in ketchup.

Although the nudity is not designed to titillate, Ren insists that his work is porn.

"I don't think the term eroticism is any better than pornography," he said. "The latter's description is much more close to how I identify my work. Eroticism is

pretentious."

Because of censorship in China, Ren's photos are usually banned. His latest film, *Penis*, is scheduled to be played in Germany soon. "It may also play in Nanjing, but it depends," Ren says.

The sale of photos is his main source of income. Most of his buyers are foreigners.

Affection

Ren describes his international travels as uninteresting because he never knows anyone at his destination. Objects like the Statue of Liberty and the Leaning Tower of Pisa hold little interest.

"Only friends can get me excited about traveling abroad," he says.

He especially appreciates Liu Xiaodong, a realist painter featured at the Ullens Center of Contemporary Art last year. Ren went to view Liu's oil paintings and a short film on his life by Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien.

"After watching the movie about Liu's mediocre life, I recognized that Liu's paintings are infused with love for his family. I find affection towards family or friends the most significant element in my life and career," Ren says.

Ren tends to be attracted to nostalgia. He is a fan of vintage apparel, even when it bears the embroidery of someone else's name.

Humbleness

Ren attributes his success to his friends and fans.

"When I finish a photo, I see it as

totally complete.

The viewer has the right to interpret it however he or she pleases," he says.

Fame comes as a result of the crowds' interest in interpreting his work.

His choice to leave college also helped him meet some of his best friends.

"At that time, if I had not met them, I probably would have entered into an advertising enterprise and become a common salary man," he says.



Photos provided by Ren Hang

Face

BEIJING TODAY Editors: Yu Shanshan Liu Xiaochen Designer: Deng Ning

Che the photographer

By Niu Chen

Che Guevara may be famous in his homeland of Argentina for his role in the Cuban Revolution, but most young people around the world know his image from T-shirts, posters and badges.

Alberto Korda, in 1960, turned Guevara into a pop icon when he plastered his image on a line of commercial products. Few people these days know that Guevara was a public hero who was an intellectual, artist and photographer.

The exhibition *Che the Photographer*, opened on September 8 at Three Shadows Photography Art Center in Beijing, aims to change that, showcasing Guevara's artistic achievements as a prolific photographer. Camilo Guevara, Che's eldest son, appeared at the exhibition's opening ceremony.

Camilo Guevara appeared very low-keyed, refusing a microphone and speaking only to his translator. He wanted to keep the focus on his father.

Camilo was only five when his father was executed in Bolivia in 1967. The photo of his dead body that was disseminated worldwide turned him into a martyr and revolutionary hero.

"He devoted himself to revolution, so he didn't have much time for us," Camilo Guevara said.

But Camilo, director of the Che Guevara Studies Center, has learned much about his father from others and written materials. "Working at the Che Guevara Studies Center, I've been studying and investigating his works," Camilo said. "I've read a lot."

He believes that his father was an exceptional man, successful and honest, fighting for his beliefs and ideals, and striving for justice.

Guevara is most impressed by his father's self-discipline and diligence.

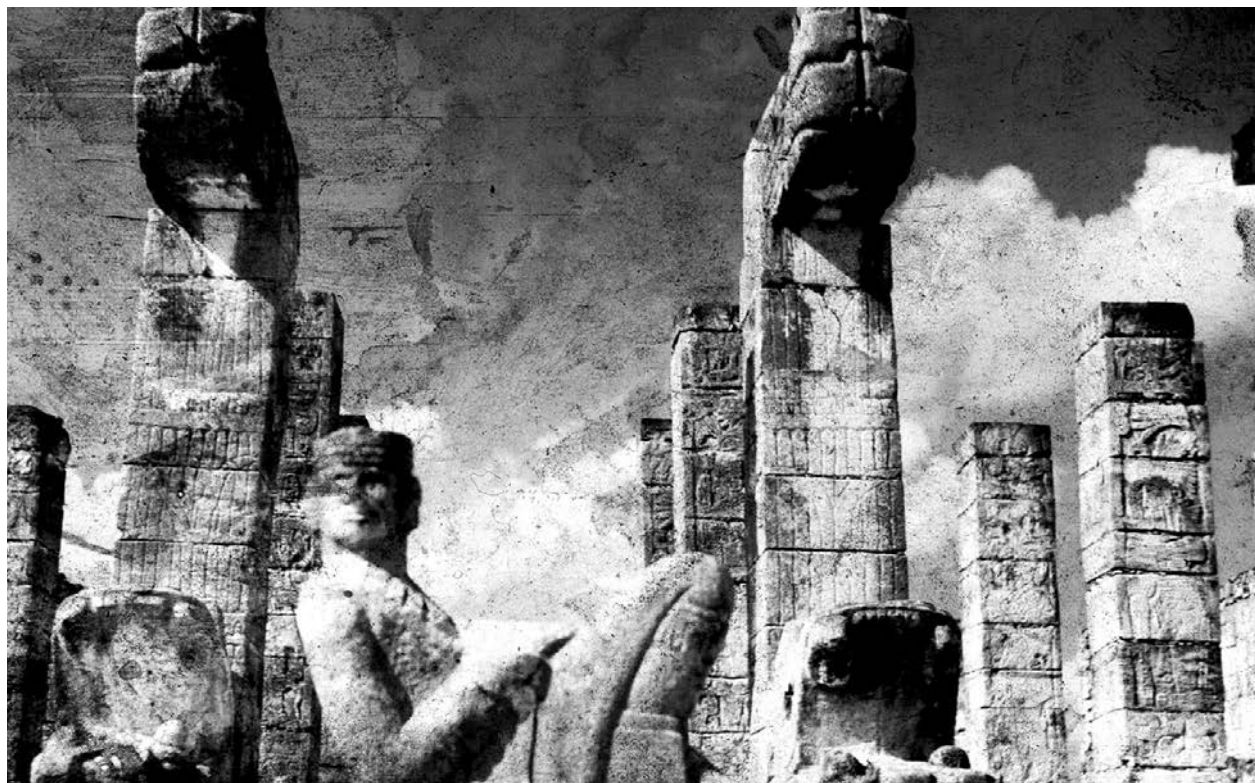
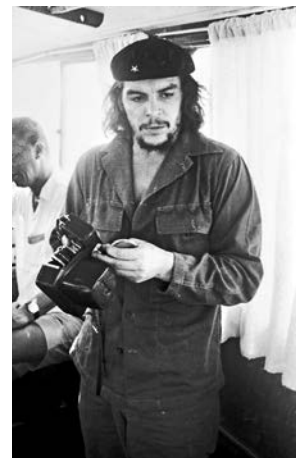
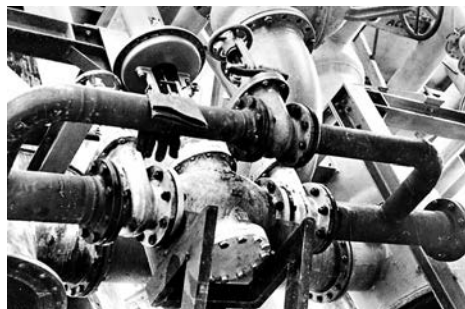
He said that his father could work all day. Even after work, Che would go study, believing he had to do something more to improve himself.

"He always behaved himself, which had to have been difficult, in my point of view," Camilo said. "There are many temptations, things that make us change our decisions even when we know what is right. My father never changed the way he was. When he felt something was right, he did it no matter what would happen."

This marked the second time that Camilo Guevara has visited China. He first arrived in Beijing in 2010 to seek partners to hold the exhibition.

"[Holding this exhibition in China] is what I have wanted for a long time," Camilo said. "I believe that Che Guevara would be glad to see his works in Beijing. As an old friend of Chinese people, he appreciated Chinese culture."

Launched in 1990 in Cuba, the exhibition has toured 13 countries over the past two decades. Beijing is the exhibition's first stop in Asia. Camilo Guevara also hopes that the exhibition will travel to other Asian countries such as Vietnam, Japan,



The exhibition aims to showcase Guevara's artistic achievements as a prolific photographer.



© The Che Guevara Studies Center
Photos provided by Three Shadows Photography Art Center

India and Indonesia, where his father visited and took pictures.

"This photo exhibition shows a different side of Che Guevara that is not well known to the public. It shows his passion for photography," Camilo said. "Chinese people will be able to see what Che Guevara sees through his lens, his way of expression, his feelings, his thoughts."

Che the Photographer features 238 photos shot by Che Guevara himself, both black and white and in color. In addition, five videos produced by the Che Guevara Studies Center are also present, featuring interviews with those who spent time with Che and witnessed his passion for photography, as well as

experts from various artistic fields.

The exhibition is arranged chronologically, with pictures from a time before he was known as Che. There are images of him studying medicine in Buenos Aires, and during the 1955 Pan-American Games when Che worked as a photographer, and others that depict scenes of industrial work when he served as the minister of industry of Cuba, and pictures from his famous motorcycle trip across South America.

"[The exhibition] is an autobiography of Che Guevara's life," Camilo said. "This is also a history of Cuba."

Subjects of Che's photographs range from portraits of family and friends to the ruins of the Mayan culture.

"My father had little time for photography. He shot what really interested him," Camilo said. "Like the environment, industry, common people and life."

Camilo Guevara was particularly impressed by a picture showing a smiling face of a boy, taken after the boy saw his new school. The school was built by Che's revolutionary army in Cuba.

Apart from its historical value, Che's works are also praised for their artistic value. Rong Rong, the exhibition's project director and the founder of the Three Shadows, was impressed by the photographs, saying that Che had a talent for photography.

"He really considered angle, composition and light, no worse than professionals," he said.

Rong appreciated the self-portraits most, saying that they were captured in his true state in his own room, quite different from those shot by others who treated him as an icon.

Camilo Guevara said that those photos had to be taken with great discretion because Che was in hiding, all alone in empty rooms.

Other pictures depict how Che didn't want to be seen – images of him inognito, in suits and fedoras.

His family members – his wife Aleida March and his children – also appear in some pictures.

"But it's a real bummer to see the revolution almost absent from the exhibition," one viewer said. Camilo Guevara said that saving lives and winning the battle were priorities of Che's guerilla campaigns. Photography required film, processing, paper and time in the 1950s and '60s, since no point-and-shoot cameras were available. Moreover, the army often slogged through jungles and water, so "a lot of pictures were taken but just never made it back."

When Che was killed in Bolivia, 12 rolls of undeveloped film were found with his corpse. The last pictures that Che Guevara took are still missing. Only about 1,000 pictures have been found over the past decades.

"It'll be a great success if, after the photo exhibitions, people show more interest in Che Guevara's life, Cuba and Latin America," Camilo said.

The exhibition is free and will continue until October 10.

Preparing for a traditional Mid-Autumn Festival

By Annie Wei

Mid-Autumn Festival is a time to unite with family and friends, usually around a delicious feast. The group would then go outside to look at the moon and enjoy desserts such as moon cakes and seasonal fruits like grapes or green oranges.

Here are some tips to make the most out of this holiday.



Photo provided by Asheley Li

Simple but delicious cooking

It can take up to three days to plan all the dishes you want to prepare. An easier way is to buy pre-cooked food that only requires a few steps of preparation.

Seafood is recommended, especially crabs, which are in season. Clean and steam them for 15 minutes. Here's a simple sauce you can make: boil some sliced ginger with rice wine; let it cool and then mix with aged vinegar.

We recommend the Chaoshan market between South Second and Third Ring Roads, with plenty of fresh seafood and a variety of braised meat.

The seafood at Chaoshan is fished from the ocean, but seafood from other markets such as Sanyuanli or Jingshen Seafood Market is usually farmed.

You can also buy several kinds of braised meat if you order a day in advance. When the guests are about

to arrive, simply fry something like steamed qidaoyu, Pacific saury (10 yuan per tail) or braised goose (30 yuan per 500 grams).

We suggest ordering in advance, as many markets are flushed with customers doing their festival shopping around this time.

If you order a lot, you can ask the vendor about delivery. Normally, the cab fee from Sanlitun to Chaoshan Market is 60 yuan one way.

Another easy way to celebrate is over hotpot. Prepare all kinds of raw materials and let guests cook whatever they like.

Xiluoyuan Caishichang

Where: Shimencun 23-24, Xiluoyuan, Fengtai District
Tel: 8720 3908

Moon cakes

People today don't crave moon cakes like they used to, but they're more or less mandatory during festival time.

tival time.

Here are some alternative moon cake options with flavors more suitable to modern tastes.

The bakery Dingtaifeng's moon cake is Suzhou-styled, with fillings of black sesame, red beans and dates. The package is traditional. Unlike other moon cakes, Dingtaifeng moon cakes have to be warmed up first. They'll turn out fresh and delicious, like straight from the bakery.

Dingtaifeng

Where: 24 Xinyuanli Zhong Jie, Chaoyang District
Open: 11:30 – 2:30pm; 5-10 pm
Tel: 6462 4502

Venues

We recommend heading to Ritan Park or the water banks around the Forbidden City to enjoy Mid-Autumn Festival. These places are quiet and beautiful at night.

Restaurants popping up near Swissotel

By Annie Wei

The neighborhood of Swissotel on the east side of the Dongsishitiao subway station has a bunch of restaurants that serve quality food at wallet-friendly prices.

Quality steakhouse

You can find very good steak paired with four sauces starting at 125 yuan at Switch! Grill. The chunky beef is imported from Australia, and is tender, tasty and juicy. Other grilled dishes include salmon with honey mustard (60 yuan), cream-fried bass (100 yuan) and French chicken (90 yuan).

The restaurant used to be located at 798 Art District but moved earlier this year. Its business set menu starts at 68 yuan for two courses.

If you're looking for a quieter place for weekend brunch, it serves pancakes (35 yuan) and French toast (35 yuan).

The main disadvantage is poor lighting, and the decoration makes it look like an average Cantonese restaurant instead of a steakhouse.

Switch! Grill

Where: 1/F, Ruishi Gongyu, 66 Gongti Bei Lu, Dongcheng District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6553 5691

Retro-style Cantonese

Although Laokengji is a Cantonese restaurant, its decoration has a bit of a 1930s-Shanghai feel. Dishes are quite good. We like the Cantonese roasted chicken (60 yuan for half), with its crispy skin and tender meat.

Garlic siguan, or luffa (30 yuan), and pork oil fried rice (20 yuan) are common home dishes in southern China. It's served in a stone bowl, suitable for three diners.

For drinks, we like the sugarcane and water chestnut juice (48 yuan per draft).

Laokengji

Where: 115, 1/F, Ruishi Gongyu 66, Gongti Bei Lu, Dongcheng District
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6552 1878

Pearson Longman English World

Exercise

Choose the correct words:

- late
a She told the teacher she was very sorry for _____.
b If I miss this bus I shall _____ for school.
- sure
We cannot _____ we'll get bookings on the plane.

Answers: 1. a. being late b. be late 2. be sure

late / be late

- ✗ I had never ^ late for school before.
- ✓ I had never been late for school before.

'Late' is an adjective and needs to follow the verb 'be'.

sure / be sure

- ✗ You cannot ^ sure you'll pass the test.
- ✓ You cannot be sure you'll pass the test.

'Sure' is an adjective, so it needs to follow the link verb 'be'.

Book title:

Common English Errors in Hong Kong (New Edition) 是一本专门为香港初、中级英文水平的学生所编写的自学教材。本书指出并纠正大量本地学生所常犯的英文文法与字法使用上的错误，并附有非常生动活泼的插图，深受青少年学生的青睐。

资料来源: Language Leader (Pre-intermediate) by Ian Lebeau and Gareth Rees (Pearson Longman)



Pop-up jewelry sales

By Annie Wei

An exhibition of jewelry by a dozen indie designers from six countries ran from September 13 to 20 in d-space art gallery, a small two-floor building inside Sanlitun Primary School.

The event, called Pop-up, gathered top works from designers' new collections for an exclusive sale, said the exhibition's organizer, a designer who goes by PJ.

The sales were limited to a short period – seven days. If you missed the chance to buy pieces from this one-of-a-kind exhibition, visit PJ's boutique, Approx Jewelry & Accessories, on the third floor of Nali Patio.



YVMIN

The brand, founded by designer Zhang Xiaoyu, is for fun and function. There are some beautiful and practical pieces.



Hai-skeleton

Designers Yin Xiangkun and Meng Dan run a store called Skeleton in 798 Art District. Yin has a strong interest in anatomy and preparing specimens. He incorporates this interest in his jewelry design, which have a strong personal style. All jewelry is handmade.



Photos provided by PJ



BEOTA

Local designer Du Ruo's brooch is like a small sculpture. It reflects Du's attitude towards women's body curves. Their bodies are not just symbols of desire, but also represent reproduction and prosperity. The designer also wants to move away from the idea that skinnier is more attractive.



Nicolas Favard

The French jewelry designer Nicolas Favard came to Beijing in 2004 to take custom orders. He has a shop at Nali Patio in Sanlitun. His new design has a tough and rock-hard impression.



Zeria scarf

The cashmere-silk blended scarves have beautiful patterns, and each is like an art piece. Anyone interested can contact its sales representatives at Elixir Fashion Accessory Company (5820 4624).



Elisabeth Koch

As a child, Koch sewed, drew, painted and molded. She involves all these skills in her designs. Her new coral hat has a classic and elegant shape, looking modern and sexy.

Where to shop

Approx Jewelry & Accessories

Where: A301, South Tower, Nali Patio, Sanlitun Bei Lu, chaoyang District

Tel: noon – 9 pm